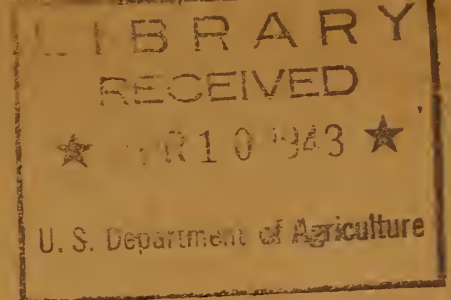


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EGGS--KEEP 'EM COMING



Broadcast by Joseph W. Kinghorne, Food Distribution Administration, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, February 15, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

KADDERLY: And with me is Joseph W. Kinghorne of the poultry division of Food Distribution Administration. I asked him to come over today and tell us why egg prices received by poultrymen have gone down faster than they usually do at this time of year. Joe, what's the answer?

KINGHORNE: The answer is that egg prices held up about five weeks longer than usual into the winter. So when prices began to fall, they went down faster than usual.

KADDERLY: And of course some poultrymen have been worried about this.

KINGHORNE: Yes, they have..., although prices have not gone down as far as they normally do.

KADDERLY: Joe, it's easy to understand the poultrymen's concern over prices. They have more laying birds than ever before, and those birds are shelling out record numbers of eggs, just as we all want them to.

KINGHORNE: They're doing a fine job of producing. And prices are not going to work against them. Prices will go up and down by seasons, just as they always have. But there's a definite limit to how low egg prices can go.

KADDERLY: And that limit is the Government support price.

KINGHORNE: That's exactly the point I want to emphasize. The floor is the equivalent of an average United States farm price of 30 cents a dozen. However, that doesn't mean a guaranteed price of 30 cents for each dozen eggs. In some parts of the country the floor price will be higher than 30¢. For example, in New England, where feed and labor costs are higher. In other parts of the country, where costs are lower, the price may go below 30 cents a dozen. But for the country as a whole, the average floor price is 30 cents a dozen.

KADDERLY: How does that compare with prices farmers have received in the low-price, spring months in the past?

KINGHORNE: It's very good. If you want to look at it in terms of parity-- it is about 107 percent of parity. If you want to look at it in dollars and cents--it's the highest average farm price since way back in 1920. And feed prices are much lower now than they were in 1920.

(over)

KADDERLY: At any rate, the Government now stands ready to support egg prices at the highest level since 1930. So producers can go right on producing as many eggs as possible, without fear of price.

KINGHORNE: Absolutely. And we need every egg that can be produced this year. With the new drying methods, we can concentrate eggs into comparatively little shipping space. For this reason, and because of their food value, eggs are ideal to ship to our fighting forces and our allies. I think poultrymen understand that very well.

KADDERLY: Which probably accounts in part for the fact that they've been doing such a grand job.

KINGHORNE: Probably so... and they have done a tremendous job. Last year they had more birds in their flocks than ever before... those birds averaged more eggs per hen than ever before... and the number of eggs laid was the largest ever. Don't try to remember this figure, but it will give you an idea of the staggering total production of the industry last year: 4 billion, 420 million dozens of eggs.

KADDERLY: That is a staggering number.

KINGHORNE: And so far this year, poultrymen are producing at about the same rate. They have the feed for the birds, and they're making good use of it. If they get the same average production this year that they got last year, we'll have another record year.

KADDERLY: And as you've said: We need every egg they can produce.

KINGHORNE: Yes we do. And the Government stands ready to support the price so that poultrymen can keep those eggs coming.

KADDERLY: Farm and Home friends, in this visit regarding egg prices and production, you've heard Joseph W. Kinghorne of the poultry division of Food Distribution Administration, the agency whose jobs include buying all lend-lease food.

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